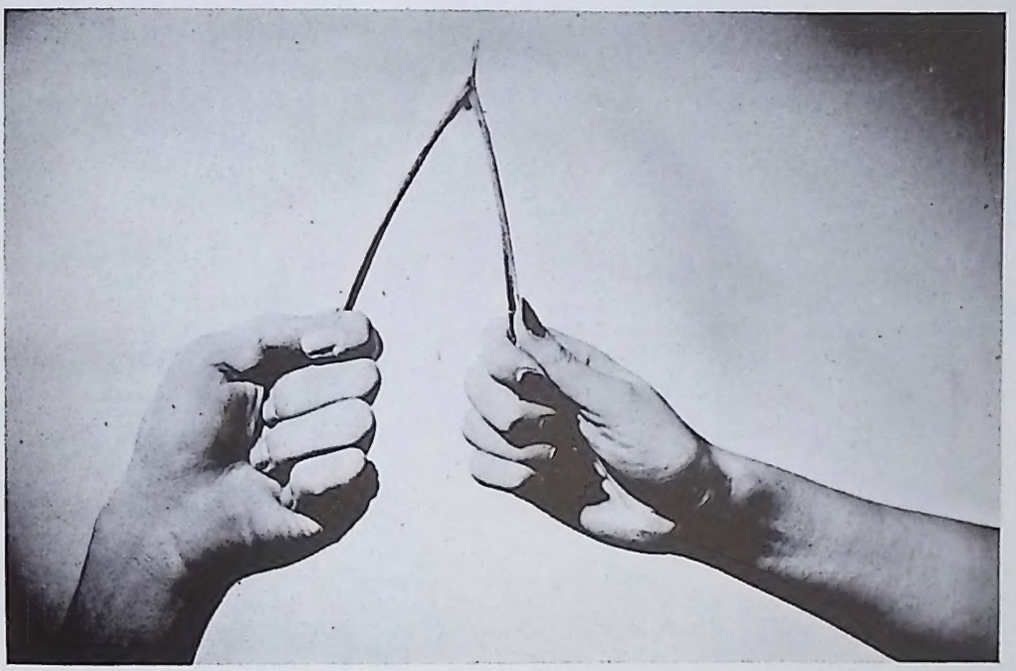
"Sweethearts" Takes Mighty $22,000, Boyd, Philadelphia. Holds


# CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

Vol. 30, No. 37 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | December 31st, 1938

# BEST WISHES FROM THE FRIENDLY COMPANY IN 1939!


PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

*(Enjoy the holidays with a realization that M-G-M's hit parade goes merrily on! And with its popular entertainments M-G-M sends heartfelt seasonal greetings of its organization to friends the world over!)*

# Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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JAMES LEWIS SMITH
*Associate Editor*

*Digest International Press Film Service syndicating 500 leading newspapers in Canada. U.S.A. and Great Britain.*

RAY LEWIS
*Editor and Publisher*

"Easy to Digest"

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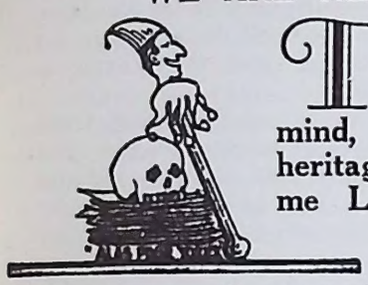
Vol. 30, No. 37 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | December 31st, 1938


## WE ARE RESOLVED



TO fight the "Fight of Right" with our soul, and heart and mind, remindful of that heritage which said, "Give me Liberty or give me Death!"

We have no other Resolution to make as we face the year of 1939, save the one we mention, since all other Resolutions which are for the good of mankind, its enterprise and ourselves, are centralized therein.

To fight the "Fight of Right" is not a new experience for us; it is the kind of a fight in which we have been engaged ever since we revealed a Ray of Thought editorially.

Some years back single copies of The Digest could be purchased at all the newstands in Toronto, and its general circulation included newstands throughout Ontario, and in other provinces of the Dominion.

Beginning with next week's issue of The Digest, we will be on the newstands at Toronto, and a little later on, you will find The Digest a personal visitor in your town, for weather permitting, your editor is intending to make a tour of Canada from coast to coast, for the purpose of speaking to the Independent exhibitors and to the patrons of your theatres, that you and the public may be aware of the motion picture situation in Canada, and may be organized to join your editor of The Digest in a "Fight for Right".

Back in 1926 we had a fight with Mr. N. L. Nathanson, for the very same reason as that which is the driving force of our effort today; to remain free of combine control, and to help you to remain free for the preservation of your Investment, and your Economic Independence.

At that time, as today, Mr. Nathanson attacked The Digest by influencing its advertisers. For close to six months, we carried a question mark on our front page, because we had a contract with that particular advertiser, and that was the Canadian manager's brilliant idea of how to hurt The Digest. The situation became so bad, that we were forced to issue a writ against Mr. N. L. Nathanson, etc., etc., for Restraint of Trade.

Through the efforts of a leading Independent Exhibitor, and some representatives of our Industry conspicuous for a sense of "Fair Play", they endeavoured to adjust the grievances; but the adjustment was a mistake, it should have been a "Fight for Right" to the finish, because there are some people who will never be able to enter into any agreement in a "Fight for Right", and keep such an agreement, if there is any liberty associated with the cause.

The position of the Independents in Canada has not improved, but grown worse, because certain Interests are playing for Control; and in order "to take the hand," they have to combine a big bluff, and a bigger gamble. The Digest is in the way of such control, because it uncovers the iniquities of the system of control which has been set into motion.

We have fought against a Controlled Press.

We have fought a Closed Film Door policy.

We have fought against "protection" for suburban or neighborhood houses.

We did not cheer for the Movie Quiz because it was glaringly unfair in its set-up, and revealed the position of the Independents in Canada, their inability to purchase product.

We fought against the 16mm. film, naming it one of the greatest of the menaces which have been introduced for the extermination of the Independent.

We fought Monopoly as it concerned the control by one man, or company of all branches of our Industry!

For these "Fights for Right" we have been obliged to meet the opposition of Power and the Greed of Gold, two of the dominant evils with which Democracy has to contend in order to save the world from their barbaric and tyrannical domination.

It appears, that neither you, if you are an Independent in Canada, nor The Digest, despite the fact that The Digest is close to a quarter of a century old, are to be permitted to live peacefully in this Dominion of Canada, because a man here in Canada who is worth millions of

(*Continued on Page* 11)

# RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THIS is a synopsis of a feature article specially written at the request of Ernest Fredman, for the Holiday Number of The Daily Film Renter of London, England. You will admit, that I said a few good things for Canada, naturally, being a native-born daughter, but the intent was not to advertise Canada as a great Dominion, but to better acquaint the Overseas Trade in respect to our Dominion.

Those of you who have travelled through Great Britain, and on the Continent, know how little they know about us, over there. My special offering to Mr. Fredman's Renter was entitled, "Looking Forward with Canada", and started off as follows:

*In a recent report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa, the latter city which is the capitol of the Dominion of Canada, the report showed an increase in 1937 motion picture attendance, which total reached 134,-374,061 as compared with the total of 127,441,574 as of 1936.*

*The 1937 receipts totaled $32,499,300, as against $29,610,300 in 1936.*

*These figures reveal, that whereas, Old Man World may be having economic headaches and heartaches, the theatre continues to hold its head, strong of heart in its function of making Entertainment a profitable service.*

*Many wise sayings have been publicized to discourage our tendency to look backward, pointing out that there is no use crying over spilt milk, or that a broken pitcher will not mend. Even the Holy Bible sought to convey the necessity of looking forward in the story which relates that Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt looking back at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.*

*It may be that the intent of the warning is centralized in the necessity to overcome that which has been unfortunate, so that we may look forward with a purpose to succeed.*

IF we in Canada looked back at the long struggle to keep the Film Trade in our Dominion, open for Film Trade, and noted how trademarks have been absorbed, Independent theatres affiliated, product controlled within the Film Trade, we might, and so might the onlooker, be inclined to view the strength of the big chain of theatres here, and the affiliated ramifications of its president's interests, as concrete proof that it is impossible to do business in Canada unless you are in the Film Combine, or under its patronage. . . . .

*Canada has, as you know, a population of 11,120,000 and these peoples inhabit an area of 3,466,556 square miles of land. You may figure out for yourself, how much space is available for additional population, and enterprises, both of which we will have, because we must have enterprise to give people their living and people to give life to enterprise.*

*The total land and water area of the Dominion of Canada, which includes all the provinces, the North West Territories and the Yukon, is 3,694,863 square miles. . . . .*

*The fact that Canada and the United States from coast to coast, meet on that boundary line which marks their invisible division, and that despite this constant and intimate relationship and the trade treaties which exist between our two nations, we have remained free from any germs of propaganda to Americanize us — when you note what is happening by way of propaganda in the bordering nations in Europe, you must appreciate, as do we, the sense of respect and the degree of ethics, which the U.S. Government maintains toward a British Dominion, linked to it by way of heritage, tradition and language.*

WE look upon ourselves as the connecting link between Great Britain and the great Republic of the United States, for knowing us as British and understanding us, the United States has a common ground upon which it can understand and know all of the British peoples, separated as it is by thousands of miles of land and sea, from the rest of the British Empire.

*The news that Mr. Oscar Deutsch is considering the expansion of the Odeon Theatres Limited, to include a Canadian theatre company, is welcome news. This idea should have been taken up seriously by British exhibitors years ago. Especially timely is this move now, with Europe in the chaotic condition in which it finds itself; and the United States leading the way for a union of the Americas.*

*What is England's link in this union of the Americas? Canada, of course, geographically, aside from all other links which naturally relate England to the English speaking countries, and these nations, large or small, who are determined to defend their conception of God and Man, their principles of Democracy and Human Conduct, by a union of their purpose.*

I COULD take you on a survey of the value of retaining every avenue of trade which we possess, but narrowing this down to our own Film Enterprise, as this is measured in box-office returns, in film rentals, and the sale and profits of film utilities and accessories, we have only the English-speaking countries with which we can carry on a profitable film trade.

(*Continued on Page* 11)

**Three British Films Playing Broadway Holiday Week. All Held Over - "Pygmalion"- Astor, "The Lady Vanishes"- Globe, "The Beachcomber"- Rivoli**

# Digest Reviews and Previews

three extra copies of The Digest, issue of December 3rd. Unfortunately we had several other requests for extra copies of that particular issue, and as a result are short ourselves. The Digest would appreciate it if any of our readers who have an extra copy of the issue available, would forward same to this office.

The virile Mr. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., created a veritable panic in Ottawa over the holiday, where he was a guest at Government House of His Excellency, Lord Tweedsmuir. To reporters requesting if he had any message for the people of Ottawa, Mr. Fairbanks is reported as saying, "I will say this — and I really mean it — I am tremendously impressed by the vitality and robustness of Canadians. now I know the reason for it. You live so close to the country and have so many sports available that you are all kept fit and healthy. Probably that explains why in the United States, and European countries, too, Canada is regarded as the backbone of the British Empire". Nice words, Mr. Fairbanks. In contrast with Mr. Fairbanks' bold words is an article written by a woman-reporter on one of the Ottawa papers. The article is headed, "Tea With Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Like A Dream Come True!" Whoosh, my dear!

Several changes in Canadian theatre managerships have taken place in recent weeks, some of which we have not reported before. Those brought to our attention this week included the transfer of Ross Chapple from the Capitol, Rossland, B.C., to the Capitol, Penticton, B.C., and the transfer of Jimmy Looney from assistant manager of the Capitol, Penticton, to the managership of the Capitol, Rossland.

I don't know whether we mentioned this before, but James McDonough is the manager of the new Galt theatre. He was formerly in charge at the Palace, London.

The old Kingswood Theatre on the Kingston Road, Toronto, formerly owned by Abraham Polakoff, has been re-opened by Mr. Nat Taylor, under the name of the Manor Theatre. It is understood that Mr. Polakoff has an interest with Nat Taylor in the theatre. William B. Taylor, formerly assistant manager at the Centre Theatre, Ottawa, has been brought to Toronto to manage the renovated house.

Joe Garfin, formerly of Calgary and Edmonton, has taken over operation of the New Midway Theatre, Rosedale, Alta.

Under the auspices of the Local Council of Women, nearly two thousand children recently crowded into the Capitol Theatre, Halifax, proffering one or more cans of food as admission price. Over 2,500 cans of food were collected and turned over to the Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. The exchanges contributed film for the occasion, with Vitagraph donating the feature, "Penrod and Sam".

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. T. J. Courtney, manager of the Casino Theatre, Halifax, N.S. In a world-wide competition, sponsored by Movie Makers, the magazine of the Amateur Cinema League, Inc., of New York, Mr. Courtney's film, entitled, "Riches From the Sea", and depicting a ten year old boy earning his first pennies by catching lobsters and selling them, has been selected as one of the 10 best non-theatrical films of 1938. Mr. Courtney is the only Canadian to place among the first ten.

"Jay L."

### VANCOUVER, B.C.

Chauncey M. Flack of Flack Investments Ltd., announced that Famous Players Canadian Corp. was the undisclosed client who purchased 95 feet by 165 feet on the northwest corner of 41st Avenue and Granville Street. Price of the property was approximately $20,000. According to the report, Famous Players will not build on the site this year, but are contemplating erection of a $50,000 store and theatre building next year.

### THE KNOCKERS THRIVE

"Hollywood's Unmarried Husbands and Wives" shows how smart Photoplay Magazine is to publish such a story. We have tried to stay away from gossip, or any of the ills which the fleshpots of Hollywood have cooked up, and where, after 25 years did it get us?

The policy of a million dollars to get out of trouble but not a dime to prevent it, is the prevailing policy which exists. This brought down to a vernacular easily understandable, reads, "we support our knockers, but starve our friends".

### DECLARE DIVIDEND

Montreal, Que. — Mansfield Theatre Company, Limited, owners of the Loew's Theatre building here, have declared a dividend of $1.75 a share on the outstanding 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock ($100 par value). The dividend, payable out of surplus, will be paid December 30 to shareholders of record December 23. There are 7,500 preferred shares outstanding, and after the forthcoming distribution there will remain a balance of dividend arrears amounting to $43.75 per share as at December 31. The theatre is leased to Famous Players Canadian Corp.

### A GOLDWYN-ISM WHICH IS ANTI-ISM

Mr. James Roosevelt, son of the President of the United States, is under contract to Mr. Samuel Goldwyn. He is reported as having said, "Mr. Goldwyn and myself happen personally to agree with the government's position in favor of separating the production companies from theatre ownership and operation."

Mr. Samuel Goldwyn, responsible for some of the best pictures the screen has offered, is also identified with that quality called Independence.

**Theatre Equipment** and COMPLETE SUPPLIES

Projectors and Parts.
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TORONTO, ONT.

EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

World Gross of "Snow White Now Approaching $8,000,000

## F.P.C.C. VOTING-TRUST AGREEMENT ENDING

"The voting trust agreement, under which 189,000 of the common shares of Famous Players Canadian Corp. have been deposited, will expire on March 6, 1939, having run its ten-year course. The voting trust certificates will then disappear, being replaced by common shares having full voting powers.

"In March, 1929, the majority of the common share capital was purchased by Canadian investment houses from United States interests and the shares were subsequently resold to the Canadian public under a voting trust agreement, with N. L. Nathanson, I. W. Killam and Adolph Zukor as trustees. Canadian control of the company, however, lasted but a short time as about a year later Paramount Famous-Lasky made an offer to exchange four shares of their stock for each five shares of Famous Players Canadian, and the offer was accepted by 96% of the shares outstanding. Control of the Canadian company is now held by Paramount Pictures, Inc., successor to Paramount Famous-Lasky and Paramount Publix Corp."

*—The Toronto Evening Telegram.*

## THIEVES ROB TWO TORONTO THEATRES

Toronto, Ont. — Thieves broke into two Toronto theatres recently, looting one of $130, and the other of $20. A gang that used a hacksaw to cut the hinges from a safe and then pried it off with a crowbar, got $130 as a reward for their efforts at the Bayview Theatre. It is believed that one of the gang hid in the theatre after the last show, and then let his confederates in. At the Bloordale Theatre, thieves hid after the last show Monday night, and afterwards rifled the manager's desk of $20 in petty cash. The Bayview is operated by Bayview Theatres Limited, while the Bloordale is one of the three theatres operated here by Messrs. Goldhar and Soloway.

RAY LEWIS
CANADIAN MOVING
PICTURE DIGEST
TORONTO
SINCERE HOLIDAY
GREETINGS TO MY GOOD
CANADIAN FRIENDS
LOUIS B MAYER

# Stop ! Look ! Listen !

**Canada again wins S. R. Kent Sales Drive; Winnipeg places first, with Montreal a close second . . . RKO Radio buys "The Flying Yorkshireman", novel by Eric Knight, as vehicle for Eddie Cantor under comedian's one picture deal with the studio . . . Third Gradwell L. Sears Drive (Warners) off to a fast start; total of $25,000 in prizes will be awarded; Carl Leserman is drive co-ordinator . . . Nicaraguan Republic cuts import duty on American films 50% in drive to stimulate importation of U.S. films; previous to the cut, Mexican and German films were competing with Hollywood product . . . 16,228 theatres in operation in the U.S. as of Dec. 1st, 1938, compared with 16,251 operating Jan. 1st, 1938; 2,182 theatres were closed as of Dec. 1, compared with 1,931 Jan. 1st; investment in new theatre construction totalled $12,800,000 plus another $6,837,000 estimated for remodeling; average weekly attendance totalled 85,000,000, with an estimated $165,000,000 expended for production . . . M-G-M signs director Ernst Lubitsch as producer-director to make "The Shop Around the Corner"; Lubitsch will also direct Greta Garbo in "Ninotchka", which Sidney Franklin will produce . . . 20th Century-Fox to spend $5,000,000 on British productions for the 1939-40 season; plans call for 10 to 12 pictures made in England; included in the schedule are re-makes of the famous successes, "Charley's Aunt", and "Sunshine Susie" . . . Canadian Government report on operation of theatres here during 1937 indicated only 28% of the total seating capacity of 601,611 in 1,047 theatres, was occupied at every performance; in other words 168,000 seats are occupied every performance; average percent of seats occupied in cities over 100,000 population was 30, to 26% in the smaller centres; the 1,047 theatres in Canada in 1937 employed 6,950 persons, of whom 5,294 were men . . . Testimonial luncheon to Ben Bernie, sponsored by Eddie Cantor to raise funds for the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies, raises $125,000 for the Amusement Division of the campaign .**

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## "SAVE THE CHILDREN"

The Editor of The Digest is on the volunteer committee of a United Women's campaign to "Save the Children". In Toronto, 25 children have already been provided for; in Hamilton, where your Editor was guest speaker, 12 children have been provided for, and in Montreal, under the convenorship of the Bronfman family, 50 children have been provided for, which means that refugee children are taken from Germany to Palestine, with the co-operation of the British government. The cost of transportation and the maintenance of each child in Palestine, covering a two years' training course, is $360.

Ray Lewis is advocating a Dominion-wide theatre night through which funds will be raised for all refugee children, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish, the money obtained to be divided equally between the agencies engaged in child refugee work.

### BRANTFORD, ONT.

Cromar Construction Company of this town, has been awarded general contract on construction of the proposed new theatre on Colborne Street here. Kaplan and Sprachman of Toronto are the architects, and John Stanley and Son of Brantford, are the owners. Plans call for two storeys, 40 feet by 126, concrete foundation, structural steel frame, brick walls, Haydite or gypsum roofing, and hot air conditioning heating.

### LEAMINGTON, ONT.

Robert Hambleton, who owns and operates the Capitol Theatre, Simcoe, Ont., has optioned property here, for erection of a new $35,000 theatre. Work is scheduled to be undertaken next spring. Street location is withheld.

### LACOMBE, ALTA.

New sound equipment has been installed in the Avalon Theatre here, and the whole building will be renovated shortly. A new and larger screen and new lights have also been purchased. Dr. J. H. W. Moore is owner of the theatre.

**Re MUSIC BOX, VANCOUVER, B.C.**

Owing to numerous replies to our "For Sale" ad, we take this means to answer - - -

**FULL PRICE $18,500**
**with $10,000 Cash You Can Handle**
This is a bona fide proposition and anyone out here will substantiate this statement.

10-Year Lease - A Going Concern

**Anna Neagle Presents Xmas Toys to Children of the Toronto Black Watch Association**

# GREETINGS

FILM DAILY

**Independent Expansion In United States and South Africa**

**Canada Wins 20th Century-Fox Sales Drive Congratulations Boys!**

By MERRYL LEA

NOW that Christmas is over we all have to get back to business again. Incidentally, the extra holiday, Monday the 27th, didn't increase box-office receipts according to the Exhibitor reports I've been hearing. It seems the public spent Christmas week-end at home with their families, or with their friends, and movies didn't tempt them. However, we can look forward to the New Year week-end, when we will have the extra holiday business on Monday, January 2nd.

I know you want to keep posted on what your fellow exhibitors are doing. Right here in Canada, both the Manitoba Exhibitors' Association and the British Columbia Exhibitors met recently. In Winnipeg the Exhibitors had a luncheon meeting, and Mr. Frank Morriss of the Winnipeg Free Press, was their guest speaker. Also present were Mr. Leo Devaney and Mr. Dave Copeland of Toronto.

AS far as I can gather, out in Vancouver, the exhibitors got together as is their annual custom, at the Hotel Vancouver. Both Independent and circuit men had a most congenial time. Incidentally, the caricatures of these Film Folk occupied considerable space in the "Daily Province". Here's a word picture for you. Hugo Ray (Beacon Theatre), President of the B.C. Theatre Association, "smiles benignly"; W. P. Dewees, veteran exhibitor, "takes it easy"; Chairman Howard Boothe (Dunbar Theatre) "made the awards"; Jimmy Patterson (20th Century-Fox) "got an academy award"; Russ McTavish (Cambie Theatre) "made a knockout co-operation speech"; Bob McEwan (Star Theatre) "listens"; "Youthful" Les Young (Fraser Theatre), President of the Independents, "looks on". Also featured is Larry Bearg (Famous Players Chief) who seems to be smiling, and Bill Hansher (Paramount), "was presented with a high hat, title and everything". The hat-band on Bill Hansher's hat reads, "King of Alcatraz".

OUR neighbours in the U.S.A. have been building theatres this year to the number of approximately 410. Figures show that the Independents led in 1938 in acquiring new houses, leading the circuit buys, seven to one — which is a pretty good lead in any country. Affiliated circuits increased their theatre interests by fifty houses.

Among the affiliated circuits, Paramount expanded the most, acquiring forty theatres. Loew's gained one house during 1938; Fox West Coast (National) gained seven, and Warners added six new houses to their circuit. RKO decreased their circuit by three theatres.

The Griffith Circuit of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, the Schine Brothers (Ohio, N.Y., Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Maryland), and Roy Martin (Georgia) acquired about 50% of the theatres gained by Independents during the year. The independent circuits are made up of 370 individual organizations operating in 2,084 cities and towns in the U.S.A. In 1933 there were only 1,968 Independent circuit theatres operating, but for the past five years the Independents have grown, their total interests now operate 3,830 theatres.

INDEPENDENTS also, are forging ahead in South Africa. Walter J. Hutchinson, director of 20th Century-Fox foreign distribution, returned from a trip to South Africa, and reported construction in that country was booming. Thirty-three theatres are to be completed by next March.

These new theatres will be in competition with the Consolidated Circuit (Schlesinger) and the M-G-M group of theatres. Mr. Hutchinson stated that 20th Century-Fox would have no investment in any of the new houses, with the exception of $200,000 invested in the Johannesburg house, which will cost about $1,000,000, and will have a seating capacity of 2,100. Independent theatre groups are responsible for the building boom now under way.

ACCORDING to the Fame Magazine Poll in the United States, the biggest Money Making Star of 1938 was Shirley Temple. The stars are voted upon by Exhibitors in the United States annually, to ascertain those players who "draw the greatest number of patrons to their theatres". Shirley has led the poll for the past four years. The following scored — Clark Gable, second; Sonja Henie, third; Mickey Rooney, fourth; Spencer Tracy, fifth; Robert Taylor, sixth; Myrna Loy, seventh; Jane Withers, eighth; Alice Faye, ninth, and Tyrone Power, tenth. The separate poll for western players resulted in the selection of Gene Autry as the biggest money-maker. William Boyd, second; Buck Jones, third; George O'Brien, fourth; Three Mesquiteers, fifth; Charles 'Starrett, sixth; Bob Steele, seventh; Smith Ballew, eighth; Tex Ritter, ninth, and Dick Foran, tenth.

THE 20th Century-Fox S. R. Kent Drive which ended December 17th resulted in a Canadian victory. Winnipeg won the first prize on delivery over quota for an eighteen week period. Winnipeg branch employees will receive five weeks' salary, with prizes for the other winning offices in proportion. Montreal came second; Des Moines, third; St. John, fourth; Omaha, fifth; New Orleans, sixth; Chicago, seventh; Calgary, eighth; Seattle, ninth; Memphis, tenth; Minneapolis, eleventh, and Toronto, twelfth.

Despite the slump due to Xmas, in the last week of the drive, 32 out of 37 exchanges gained over their quota.

Congratulations to Joseph Huber, Manager of the Winnipeg Branch, and to all the winners, not overlooking those who tried. The Canadians, led by our own J. P. O'Loghlin, certainly won their share of honour in this drive!

**"Dawn Patrol" Garners $52,000 1st Week, Strand, N.Y.**

# Ray Presents

(*Continued from Page 4*)

*I could point out and enumerate the increasing number of closed markets, but you, who are so close to Continental markets, are aware that the Film Industry must develop new trade outlets for American and British pictures, to replace those markets which have been closed to us.*

*I could cite that most English of expressions, "Do not place all your eggs in one basket", and in relationship to Film Enterprise, I would interpret this to mean, that our British Film Magnates would be wise, not to have all their theatres and theatre capital in Great Britain. Some of this film money and enterprise should be diverted to Canada, where it would be safer, being closer to the United States, than it is at present, being so close to Nazi and Fascist Dictatorships, both of which have developed a "Gimme" and "Grabit" complex, without precedent, or comparison, since nations took it upon themselves to assume the attitude of being intelligent and honourable instruments of human service. . . . .*

THERE are, in Canada, approximately 1,300 theatres, at present, but two hundred of these, are not in the regular theatre classification, playing but three nights a week, and others showing what is known as 16mm. film.

The registered number of theatres in 1937, was reported at 1,047, an increase of 88 theatres over 1936. For the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1938, the Ontario Government's Bureau at Toronto, reports 13 theatres remodelled in that year and 13 new theatres. Evidently, there is luck in thirteen. Of the thirteen new theatres for Ontario, five were built at Toronto. Curiously, the new theatres were all on the smallish size, for their combined seating capacity totaled but 7,514 seats.

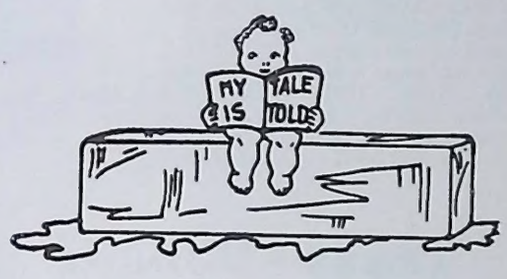
*Looking forward with Canada, I would say that we could take care of an additional five hundred theatres across the Dominion, nicely; and if we get the additional population which we should have, and about which our representative men are talking, Canada will be virgin territory for theatre expansion.*

*As a matter of fact, we need new theatres badly, for the majority of the theatres, including those which are termed as Big Chain theatres, are all old theatres, and do not compare with the theatres which have been and are being built in England. . . . .*

*There were a total of 2,476 pictures submitted for censorship in Ontario. 127 of these pictures were of British origin, this included the pictures made in Canada. There were 15 Russian, 7 Polish, 7 Jewish, 5 Hungarian, 2 Chinese, 2 Ukrainian, 1 Czechoslovakian, 1 German. Changes were made in most of them, but all were passed by the Ontario Censor Board with the exception of one Russian film. The trailers numbered 601, comedies 363, news reels 214, and miscellaneous 678. Of the total number there were 323 feature pictures, all of which were passed after some changes. If you deduct your foreign and British product from your total, you will find the number of American pictures which Canada imported. . . . .*

YOU have no doubt heard it said, and also, have read, that Canada as a film trade centre is all sewn up. Such is the belief we will not deny. We hear the same idea expounded in the United States and in Canada; and there is no doubt but that the film situation in Canada has been in conservative language, pretty lousy. I have, on occasion, denied the various stories as published and publicized, because I was loath to admit, that with the unlimited resources which we possess, and the fineness of our people here, we could permit ourselves to degenerate into such a state, in respect to our Entertainment. That any one man, or company could successfully operate a Dictatorship policy here, is an irritating admission.

*Mr. Oscar Deutsch, would not only do his company and the Film Industry in general, a great deal of good by building theatres in Canada, but I am of the opinion, that, although the American producer-distributors may not openly stage an ovation for his coming, there would be silent rejoicing over such a happy event, an Open Door for Film Trade in Canada.*




# Editorial

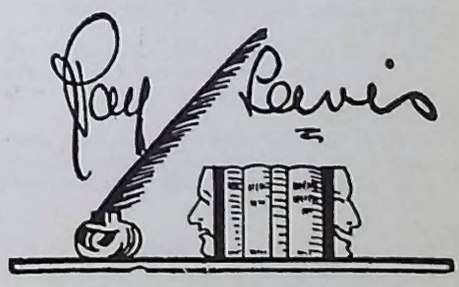
(*Continued from Page 3*)

**dollars, who not over twenty years ago, had less than you, or The Digest had in worldly goods, is determined to be Dictator of all our film enterprise.**

**Lean days are upon The Digest by way of advertising support, but with the belly empty one generally thinks more clearly, and we are at present sharpening our wits for the last grand stand in the "Fight for Right" — are you with us?**

**Let us at least have your subscription, and write us whether you can arrange a public meeting at which we can present the case of The Independents in Canada vs. The Monopolists.**

**Meanwhile, a Happy New Year to Men of Goodwill.**




## "The Lady and the Cowboy" Heads Providence, R.I. Grosses With $13,000, State Theatre

# Shooting the Stars

ROBERT TAYLOR will play a cadet of the Royal Military College of Canada in the METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER porduction, "HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER", which SAM ZIMBALIST will produce; story revolves around the traditional hockey rivalry between RMC and West Point . . . CHARLES COBURN has been assigned an important role in "THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL", which goes into production at 20TH CENTURY-FOX January 3rd, with LORETTA YOUNG and DON AMECHE co-starred . . . PAUL PORCASI has been added to the big company that WARNER BROS. have working with PAUL MUNI and BETTE DAVIS in "JUAREZ"; shooting is expected to be completed in January, with release set for early Spring . . . LLOYD INGRAHAM has been signed by RKO RADIO for a part in "LOVE AFFAIR", now filming with IRENE DUNNE and CHARLES BOYER in the stellar roles; cast also includes Lee Bowman, Marie Ouspenskaya, Astrid Allwyn, Phyllis Kennedy and Maurice Moskovich . . . EDWARD SMALL announced this week that he has signed GEORGE BRUCE to write the screen adaptation of "MY SON, MY SON!", the best selling novel by HOWARD SPRING; Small will make the picture for UNITED ARTISTS release . . . Columbia this week signed FAY BAINTER to play the name role in "OLD MRS. LEONARD AND HER MACHINE GUNS", which will be placed in work in the near future, with BEN STOLOFF directing . . . GRAND NATIONAL'S first release for the new year will be the Fine Arts production, "THE LONG SHOT", featuring GORDON JONES and MARSHA HUNT, which is scheduled for release January 6 . . . for the fourth time

Myrna Loy, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, who ranks seventh in the list of money-making stars, according to the FAME poll.

ROBERT MONTGOMERY and ROSALIND RUSSELL are being teamed, this time in a new mystery-comedy entitled "FAST AND LOOSE"; Montgomery will play a detective in the new M-G-M production, and Miss Russell will be his wife . . . "THE GORILLA", forthcoming 20th CENTURY-FOX vehicle for the RITZ BROTHERS, will be directed by ALAN DWAN; HARRY JOE BROWN will act as Associate Producer . . . LEE TRACY, who has been receiving rave reviews for his performance in the London stage presentation of "Idiot's Delight", will return to Hollywood next month to head the cast of RKO RADIO'S feature film of circus life, "WHAT'S A FIXER FOR", which CLIFF REID will produce . . . HAL ROACH announces that he has signed JUNE LANG for the feminine lead in his forthcoming production, "CAPTAIN FURY", which will star BRIAN AHERNE and VICTOR McLAGLEN, and will be released through UNITED ARTISTS . . . PAT O'BRIEN, a friend in real life of the famous football coach, KNUTE ROCKNE, will portray his friend in a picture which WARNER BROS. will make dealing with the career of the famous Notre Dame mentor; WAYNE MORRIS, JANE BRYAN, FRANK McHUGH and RONALD REAGAN has been assigned to the other top roles; the film will be known as "THE FIGHTING IRISH" . . . "BLONDIE STEPS OUT" is the title of the second of the series of comedies COLUMBIA is bringing to the screen, based on Chic Young's popular daily newspaper cartoon strip.

# Trans-Canada Holiday-Week Showings

## TORONTO

HOLLYWOOD
"Blondie" (Columbia), starring Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake, and "Say It In French" (Paramount), with Ray Milland and Olympe Bradna.

IMPERIAL
"Just Around the Corner" (20th Century-Fox), starring Shirley Temple, and "Submarine Patrol" (20th Century-Fox), starring Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly.

LOEW'S
"Cowboy and the Lady" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon.

SHEA'S
"Girl's School" (Columbia), starring Anne Shirley, Nan Grey and Ralph Bellamy. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
"Brother Rat" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane.

## MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"The Shining Hour" (M-G-M), starring Joan Crawford, Margaret Sullavan, Robert Young and Melvyn Douglas, and "The Lady Objects" (Columbia), starring Lanny Ross and Gloria Stuart.

LOEW'S
"Five of a Kind" (20th Century-Fox), starring Jean Hersholt and the Dionne Quintuplets. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Joan Bennett and Fredric March, and "Little Orphan Annie" (Paramount) starring Ann Gillis.

PALACE
2nd week. "The Great Waltz" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer, Fernand Gravet and Miliza Korjus.

PRINCESS
"A Christmas Carol" (M-G-M), starring Reginald Owen, and "Girls' School" (Columbia), starring Anne Shirley, Nan Grey and Ralph Bellamy.

## SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Drums" (London Films), starring Sabu and Raymond Massey.

EMPIRE
"Life Begins in College" (20th Century-Fox), starring the Ritz Brothers, and "Daughter of Shanghai" (Paramount), with Anna May Wong.

MAYFAIR
"Blockheads" (M-G-M), starring Laurel and Hardy, and "Prairie Moon" (Republic), starring Gene Autry.

REGENT
"Valley of the Giants" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris and Claire Trevor, and "Booloo" (Paramount).

STRAND
"There Goes My Heart" (Hal Roach-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Virginia Bruce.

## WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Out West With the Hardys" (M-G-M), starring Lewis Stone and Mickey Rooney.

GARRICK
"You Can't Take It With You" (Columbia), starring Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold.

GAIETY
"Stablemates" (M-G-M), starring Wallace Beery and Mickey Rooney, and "Vacation From Love" (M-G-M), starring Dennis O'Keefe and Florence Rice.

LYCEUM
"The Arkansas Traveler" (Paramount), starring Bob Burns, and "Illegal Traffic" (Paramount), with Mary Carlisle.

RIO
"Storm Over Bengal" (Republic), starring Patric Knowles, Richard Cromwell and Rochelle Hudson, and "Come On Rangers" (Republic), starring Roy Rogers.

## CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Stablemates" (M-G-M), starring Wallace Beery and Mickey Rooney.

GRAND
"Call of the Wild" (U.A. re-issue), starring Clark Gable, Loretta Young and Jack Oakie. Also stage show.

ISIS
"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Disney-RKO Radio).

PALACE
"Just Around the Corner" (20th Century-Fox), starring Shirley Temple.

VARIETY
"Blockheads" (M-G-M), starring Laurel and Hardy, and "Sky Giant" (RKO Radio), starring Richard Dix and Chester Morris.

## VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"Out West With the Hardys" (M-G-M), starring Lewis Stone and Mickey Rooney.

BEACON
"Storm Over Bengal" (Republic), starring Patric Knowles, Richard Cromwell and Rochelle Hudson, and "Gold Mine in the Sky" (Republic), starring Gene Autry. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
"Thanks For Everything" (20th Century-Fox), starring Adolphe Menjou, Jack Oakie, Jack Haley and Arlene Whelan, and (matinees only) "Tom Sawyer, Detective" (Paramount), starring Donald O'Connor. Also stage show.

PLAZA
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett.

STRAND
"Girl's School" (Columbia), starring Anne Shirley, Nan Grey and Ralph Bellamy, and "While New York Sleeps" (20th Century-Fox), with Michael Whalen.